Glimpses of MoU Exchange Ceremony Between Industry and Academia

at
Rashtrapati Bhavan

on
4th November 2015

on the occasion of Visitor’s Annual Conference
Visitor’s Annual Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan, which was held from 4 November to 6 November, became an occasion for CII to showcase its strength in facilitating industry-academia collaborations when it got more than 25 of its member companies to exchange memorandum of understanding (MOU) with heads of top 25 central institutions. The MOU exchange ceremony took place on 4th November in the royal banquet hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of the President of India, Mr Pranab Mukherjee; Union minister of human resource development, Ms Smriti Zubin Irani; Secretary, higher education, Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi and several high-level dignitaries from industry and academia.

Some of the top companies of India such as Tata Power, BHEL, Elico, Blue Star and Cadila Pharmaceuticals, represented by their chairmen and CEOs came to participate in the special CII session on industry-academia collaboration and also entered into MOUs with Central institutions for collaborative work.

President, CII, Mr Sumit Mazumder; Vice-President, Ms Shobana Kamineni and Director-General Mr Chandrajit Banerjee spoke on this occasion about the need for industry and institutes to work together and CII’s initiatives in this direction. Mr Mazumder termed it a “proud moment for CII” and said that there could be no better platform for CII to showcase its strength in industry-institute collaboration than the august portals of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Ms Kamineni, reflecting on the healthy mix of theory and practice in medical education rued the fact that application of knowledge gained from books to situations in real life was missing in other segments of education. “This absence”, she said, “is glaring in social sciences and it is the crying need of the hour in engineering.”

Mr Banerjee shared with the audience, which comprised vice-chancellors and directors of IITs and NITs, that while CII had initially targeted exchange of roughly 10 MOUs between its member companies and academic institutions, it was happily surprised to see that number cross 25.

In India, the President of the country is Visitor of 114 Central institutions. These include 44 central universities, 30 NITs, 16
IITs, 5 IISERs, 4 IIITs, 7 NIPERs and 8 others which are under the administrative control of ministry of human resource development (MHRD). Some institutions are under the ministry of shipping, ministry of external affairs, ministry of agriculture, ministry of sports, ministry of textiles and ministry of chemicals and fertilizers.

As a Visitor, the powers of the President include the right to order an inspection of a university or an institution, its buildings, laboratories and equipment. Mr Pranab Mukherjee, as the 13th President of India, revived the tradition of conference of vice-chancellors in 2013. In the same year he also started an annual conference of directors of NITs and IITs at Rashtrapati Bhavan. In 2014, separate annual conferences of Central institutions were held at the President’s House. All the conferences had industry participation as an important component of proceedings and discussions.

CII had been part of the discussions and deliberations since the tradition of annual conferences was revived. This year it proposed and got the opportunity to conduct a special session during the Visitor’s Annual Conference, which was held for all 114 Central institutions together for the first time. During this session CII got 27 of its member companies to exchange MOUs with heads of academic institutions.

Intensive parleys were organized and facilitated by CII between companies and institutions prior to the exchange ceremony on 4th November. The corporate sector responded enthusiastically to the proposal of entering into some sort of collaboration with academic institutions. While several companies had already been working with select institutions, for the purpose of the historic session they identified new areas of partnership and signed fresh MOUs. There were many for which working with academic institutions was a first and they were facilitated at every step of negotiations by CII.

The six suggested areas of collaboration which both sides were given were Governance, Curriculum, Faculty, Infrastructure, Research Projects and Placements. While placements is the most direct way in which companies usually engage with academic institutions, they were explained that there were several other ways through which they could interact with the
academia. These included supplementing learning in the classroom by facilitating first-hand experience for students in their factories; donating the time of their senior executives for either face-to-face interaction with students or for video interactions; providing sabbatical to faculty so that they could gain exposure to real-time problems of companies and pass on that knowledge to their students; sending guest faculty to institutes; setting up incubation centres or laboratories inside institutes to enable students to get the feel of real machines and giving their research assignments to institutions so that both students and faculty could learn by working on real challenges and problems.

From industry, Pepsi signed the maximum number of MOUs at four, followed by three MOUs by Blue Star and two each by Tata Power and KHS Machinery. Among other MOU signing companies were Elico Limited, Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Anmol Feeds, Dow Chemicals, Emerson Network, Paradeep Phosphates, Bosch, Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India, Micro Interconnexion, Veena Diecasters, Liberty Shoes, Viacom 18 Media, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Bitchem Asphalt, Garden Reach Ship Builders, MN Dastur & Company, Sankalp Semiconductors and Skybit Technologies.

Among institutions, the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST) signed maximum number of MOUs at six, followed by two MOUs each by IIT Kanpur, NIT Warangal and MNNIT Allahabad. Other institutions which exchanged MOUs with companies included IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, SPA Delhi, IIT Bhubaneshwar, IIT Gandhinagar, SVNIT Surat, IISc, NIT Trichy, NIT Goa, NIT Srinagar, NIT Delhi, VNIT Nagpur, Central University of Haryana and Jamia Milia Islamia.

The department of pharmaceuticals also brought seven of its NIPERs to exchange 16 MOUs with pharma companies. Among the companies were Dr Reddy’s Laboratories, Bharat Biotech, Natco Research Centre, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Wockhardt, Medley Pharmaceuticals, Panacea Biotec, Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Cadila Healthcare, Sahajanand Laser Technology, Johnson & Johnson, Hindustan Antibiotics and Karnataka Antibiotics.

Among NIPERs, maximum number of MOUs were exchanged by NIPER Mohali and Ahmedabad at five each, followed by NIPER Hyderabad which exchanged three MOUs and one each by NIPER Guwahati, Hajipur, Kolkata and Raebareli.
Interactive Session
MoU on Research Partnerships, Faculty Exchanges and Student Internships

Mr. B. Thiagarajan, Executive Director & President- AC&R Products Business, Blue Star Limited and Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras
MoU on Research Partnerships, Faculty Exchanges and Student Internships

Mr. B. Thiagarajan, Executive Director & President- AC&R Products Business, Blue Star Limited and Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Director, School of Planning & Architecture, Delhi
MoU on Evaluating Use of Various Technologies in the Field of Water, Nanotechnology, Electronics, Catalysts and Polymers

Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, CEO, Dow Chemical International Private Limited
and Prof. Indranil Manna, Director, IIT Kanpur
MoU on Product Design, Development & Design Validation for AC Power, DC Power Solutions and Precision Cooling Solutions for Data Centre, Telecom and IT/ITES Applications
MoU on Improvements in Plant Operation Management

Mr. D. S. Ravindra Raju, Whole time Director, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) and Prof. Ratnam V. Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar
MoU on Enhancing Student Performance Through Projects and Internships

Mr. Yatindra Sharma, Managing Director, KHS Machinery Pvt. Ltd.
and Dr. Sudhir K. Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar
MoU on Enhancing Student Performance Through Projects and Internships

Mr. Yatindra Sharma, KHS Machinery Pvt. Ltd.
and Dr. Sudhir K. Jain, Director, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat
MoU on Intellectual Property

Dr. Steffen Berns, Managing Director, Bosch Limited
and Prof. Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc Bangalore
MoU on Smart City

Mrs. Vanitha Datla, Executive Director & CFO, Elico Ltd.
and Prof. T. Srinivasa Rao, Director, NIT Warangal
MoU on Collaborative Research and Student Development

Mr. D. Shivakumar, Chairman & CEO, PepsiCo India and Dr. Srinivasan Sundararajan, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli
MoU on Collaborative Research and Guest Lectures

Mr. D. Shivakumar, Chairman & CEO, PepsiCo India
and Dr. Swapan Bhattacharya, Director, National Institute of Technology, Surathkal
MoU on Collaborative Research and Student Development

Mr. D. Shivakumar, Chairman & CEO, PepsiCo India
and Prof. P. Chakrabarti, Director, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad
Mr. Harbhajan Singh, Sr. Vice President, General & Corporate Affairs, Honda Motorcycles & Scooters India Ltd. and Prof. P. Chakrabarti, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad
MoU on Collaborative Research and Student Development

Mr. Anil Kher, Managing Director, Micro Interconnexion Pvt. Ltd.
and Prof. G.R.C. Reddy, Director, NIT Goa
MoU on Enhancing Student Employability Through Internships and Campus Placements

Mr. Anil Sardana, CEO and MD, Tata Power and Prof. Rajat Gupta, Director, NIT Srinagar
MoU on Enhancing Student Employability Through Internships and Campus Placements

Mr. Anil Sardana, CEO and MD, Tata Power
and Dr. Ajay K. Sharma, Director, NIT Delhi
Veena Diecasters & Engineers Pvt. Ltd.

MoU on Industrial Testing & Use of Laboratories for Aluminum Die-Casting

Mr. Vandan Shah, Executive Director, Veena Diecasters & Engineers Pvt. Ltd. and Prof. Narendra S. Chaudhari, Director, VNIT, Nagpur
MoU on Curriculum Design & Good Governance

Mr. Adesh Gupta, CEO, Liberty Shoes Ltd.
and Prof. (Dr.) R.C Kuhad, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Haryana
MoU on The #Brain Wave Alliance

Mr. Sudhanshu Vats, Group CEO, Viacom18 Media Private Limited and Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Milia Islamia
Mr. Subrata Biswas, Director (Engg., R&D), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
and Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, Director, IIEST Shibpur
MoU on Collaborative Research & Green Roadway

Mr. Sarat Kumar Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, Bitchem Asphalt Technologies and Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIEST Shibpur
MoU on Collaborative Research, Faculty, Curriculum and Infrastructure Development

Rear Admiral A.K. Verma, CMD, Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Ltd. and Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIEST Shibpur
Mr. Abhijit Dasgupta, Joint Managing Director, M N Dastur & Company (P) Ltd. and Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIEST Shibpur

MoU on Materials Science, Engineering and Technology
MoU on Joint Academic and Research Program in Analog & Mixed Signal VLSI Integrated Circuit Design and Fabrication

Mr. Mrinal Das, Director, Sankalp Semiconductors
and Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIEST Shibpur
MoU on Collaborative Research, Faculty Exchange, Curriculum and Infrastructure Development

Mr. Debabrata Dutta, Founder & Executive Director, SkyBits Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, IIEST Shibpur
MoU on Scientific Personnel for Education & Training;
Research Collaboration; Finishing School and Dr. Reddy's Chair

Mr. Satish K. Reddy Chairman, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd.
and Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Director, NIPER, Hyderabad
MoU on Scientific Personnel for Education and Training and Research Collaboration

Dr. Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech and Dr. Ahmed Kamal, NIPER, Hyderabad
MoU on Scientific Personnel for Education and Training and Research Collaboration

Dr. A. K. S. Bhujanga Rao, President (Technical), Natco Research Centre and Dr. Ahmed Kamal, NIPER, Hyderabad
MoU on Formulation Development

Dr. Alexander Gebauer, President & Head- Global R&D from Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. and Prof. K.K. Bhutani, Officiating Director from NIPER, Mohali
MoU on Research and Development in Anti-Inflammatory and life-Style Disease Segments

Dr. Murtaza Khorakiwala, Managing Director, Wockhardt Limited
and Prof. K.K. Bhutani, NIPER, Mohali
MoU on Formulation Development in the Area of Hematinics, Anti Ulcerants, Anti Bacterials, Pain Management, Gynaecology and Cardiovascular

Mr. Sahir Khatib, Vice Chairman, Medley Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Prof. K.K. Bhutani, NIPER, Mohali
MoU on Collaborative Research in the Areas of Metabolic Disorders, CNS Disorders, Oncology and Infectious Diseases

Dr. Rajesh Jain, Jt. Managing Director, Panacea Biotec Ltd. and Prof. K.K. Bhutani, NIPER, Mohali
MoU on Formulation Development and Training

Mr. S. B. Bhadrannavar, Managing Director, Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL) and Prof. K.K. Bhutani, NIPER, Mohali
MoU on Scientific Personnel for Education and Training & Research Collaboration

CII Representative on behalf of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Kalia, Director, NIPER, Ahmedabad
MoU on Scientific Personnel for Education and Training and Research Collaboration

Dr. Mukul Jain, Senior Vice President - Pharmacology & Head Nonclinical Research & Development, Cadila Healthcare and Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Kalia, NIPER, Ahmedabad
MoU on Curriculum Development, Education and Industry Project Work to Students

Dr. Arvind L. Patel, Chairman, Sahjanand Laser Technology Limited and Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Kalia, NIPER, Ahmedabad
MoU on Curriculum Development, Education and Industry Project Work to Students

Mr. Raghvendra Shenoy, Vice-President, Johnson & Johnson Medical India and Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Kalia, NIPER, Ahmedabad
MoU on Formulation Development and Training

Mr. K.V. Varkey, Managing Director, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) and Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Kalia, NIPER, Ahmedabad
MoU on Collaboration in the Area of Biopharmaceuticals and Natural Products for Drug Discovery

Mr. K. M. Prasad, Managing Director, Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL) and Dr. K.C. Saikia, Director in charge, NIPER-Guwahati
MoU on Formulation Development and Training

Mr. E.A. Subramanian. Managing Director, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) and Dr. Pradeep Das, Director, NIPER, Hajipur
MoU on Product Development and Training

Mr. E.A. Subramanian, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) and Dr. Ravichandiran.V, Director, NIPER, Kolkata
MoU on Formulation Development and Training

Mr. Praveen Kumar, CMD, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) and Dr. P.K. Shukla, Project Director, NIPER, Raebareli
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India’s development process. Founded in 1895, India’s premier business association has around 8000 members, from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 200,000 enterprises from around 240 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, healthcare, education, livelihood, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and water, to name a few.

In its 120th year of service to the nation, the CII theme of Build India - Invest in Development: A Shared Responsibility, reiterates Industry’s role and responsibility as a partner in national development. The focus is on four key enablers: Facilitating Growth and Competitiveness, Promoting Infrastructure Investments, Developing Human Capital, and Encouraging Social Development.

With 66 offices, including 9 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Bahrain, China, Egypt, France, Singapore, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 312 counterpart organizations in 106 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.